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Letter dated 31 August 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you on your initiative, the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, and to assure you of the support of the Russian Federation in this regard. However, there are some reservations that we are obliged to mention.

First, I would like to express our deep appreciation that, during consultations on the declaration, a number of our concerns were taken into account, including the references to the basic principles of peacekeeping as well as the primacy of political solutions in conflict settlement, which remain imperative for United Nations peacekeeping.

At the same time, I must draw your attention to the fact that the Russian Federation is not in a position to endorse certain provisions of the declaration, as follows:

- We strongly object to tying human rights efforts with the protection of civilians and using for that purpose "all necessary means"
- Priority in cooperation between a United Nations mission and a host country should be given to communication and interaction with the host Government, rather than with the local population and civil society organizations
- Emphasizing the role of certain regional organizations at the expense of other relevant regional organizations
- The key role in defining the parameters of peacekeeping belongs to the United Nations intergovernmental bodies, such as the General Assembly, its Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Security Council. We regret that our proposal to indicate that clearly in the declaration, as indicated in paragraph 19 of document A/72/19, was not reflected in the final text of the declaration.

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Given that the declaration represents a voluntary expression by Member States of their willingness to act in accordance with the principles relevant to them, we are of the strong belief that the provisions of the document do not create any precedent and/or will not automatically be transmitted into United Nations documents.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vassily **Nebenzia**
Permanent Representative